

Company Plans to Expand Operations, Add High-Paying Jobs at Ithaca Campus

Ithaca, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today visited the South Hill Business Campus in Ithaca to announce \$2.2 million in federal funds he secured for Widetronix, Inc. The company will use the funds to expand its team and open a prototyping facility, creating five jobs in the near term and 25 high-tech jobs over the next five years.

"Just a few years ago, Widetronix was a small start up with big promise," Hinchey said. "Today, as a result of the hard work from the team lead by Jonathan Greene and the federal funds I've helped secure, the company is fulfilling that big promise and creating high-paying, high-tech jobs right here in Ithaca. It's the perfect example of how federal efforts can drive partnerships between non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and private sector companies to spur innovation and economic development. I am so proud of what we are achieving here."

The first of two grants, in the amount of \$1.2 million secured by Hinchey through The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC), helped the start-up lay a foundation for future federal funds. With Hinchey's support, Widetronix was later selected by the Department of Defense for a second federal grant in the amount of \$1 million. The new funding will benefit the government's anti-tamper program, which helps prevent U.S. missile technology from falling into the wrong hands.

"We are thrilled that the Defense Department has selected Widetronix to support its anti-tamper program," said company CEO Jonathan Greene. "Congressman Hinchey's support has been key to our growth, and his continued support for small start-up businesses remains a shining example of how our elected officials are working towards expanding the local economy."

Widetronix is a spin-out from Cornell's College of Engineering, started by Professor Michael Spencer in 2003. The company's technology is uniquely positioned to have a significant impact on protecting both data and hardware in our nation's defense systems deployed globally. Beyond defense applications, the company is working to integrate this technology in a variety of

commercial applications, including medical implants and wireless sensors used to monitor buildings and bridges for stress.

Another success story is the growth of high tech companies at the South Hill Business Campus. In December 2004, the property had a 30 percent occupancy rate. Occupancy grew in each subsequent year, and by the end of 2009, it was 83 percent full. Aided by \$1.5 million in tenant improvements, \$3.4 million in building improvements, \$2.3 million in energy efficiency improvements, and \$1.5 million in ground water remediation through the State's Brownfield program, the property has bounced back and is now home to several growing companies. Hinchey has secured \$8 million in federal investments for Primet Inc., which occupies space on the campus.

The initial \$1.2 million grant was secured through TSEC -- an industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York. Hinchey helped establish TSEC in 2007 and has secured more than \$31 million in federal funding for the consortium and its partners across New York.

The grants for Widetronix and Primet, along with a \$17.5 million Department of Energy grant for Cornell's Energy Materials Center, are helping make Ithaca a hub for the development of battery technology that will help drive and expand the use of solar energy and other technologies.